

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Toru SHIRAISHI et al.

Group Art Unit: 1793

Application No.: 10/537,808

Examiner: K. KERNS

Filed: June 7, 2005

Docket No.: 124212

For: COMPOSITE MATERIAL MEMBER AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE
SAME

APPLICANTS' INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Kerns in the February 10, 2009 interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

During the interview, Applicants' representative argued that (1) the objections to the supplemental Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS"), drawings and claims and (2) the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), should be overcome for the reasons described in the Amendment filed on January 26, 2009 ("Amendment").

Regarding the objection to the supplemental IDS, Examiner Kerns agreed to initial the blank PTO 1449 form, and thus confirm that he considered the information disclosed in the supplemental IDS. Furthermore, Examiner Kerns agreed that the amendments to the specification and claims in the Amendment would overcome the objections to the claims and the specification.

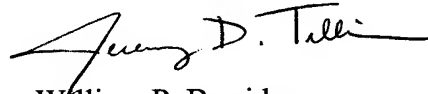
With regards to the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection, Applicants' representative pointed out that JP 07-232261 ("JP '261") clearly describes a double-layered porous material where each layer is comprised of two materials (i.e., stainless steel and alumina), and thus is distinguished from the single-layered porous material comprised of a single material, as recited in the present claims. Furthermore, Applicants' representative argued that the "thickness 1 mm" description in JP '261 refers to one of the characteristics (including the 200 mm diameter and the 95% consistency) for the magnetic metal powder layer, and does not describe the thickness for the double-layered porous material.

As acknowledged by the Patent Office during the interview, none of the references, alone or in combination, explicitly describe the porous material recited in claim 1. Applicants understand that a further search will be conducted.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 14-16, 20 and 21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:JDT/can

Date: February 17, 2009

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